

MBSP Scholar Success Award Series

The Multicultural Scholars Business Program (MBSP) celebrates all of the MBSP scholars. There is one in particular who deserves recognition for all her hard work, Sherrie Marland. Sherrie was raised in Tama, Iowa. She is majoring in Management and Leadership with a concentration in entrepreneurship. She has been involved on campus through a variety of organizations. The first organization that she got involved with was TRIO. The TRIO program connected Sherrie to MBSP, which she joined her Sophomore year. Sherrie is also actively involved in First Nations Student Association (FNSA) and is currently the Treasurer. FNSA has been a support system to her where she can relate to people that come from a similar background. Through this organization, she has been involved with Powwows, which help her get through homesickness. Powwows also allow her to represent her background and bring to light the struggles of being a Native American in a predominantly white institution.

When I asked Sherrie what motivates her she answered, "The struggle." Sherrie was raised by a single mother and money wasn't always at their disposal. This has pushed her to be the best she can at everything she does and she always will push for more and never settle. She mentioned that she did not come to college in order to become rich, but to make something of herself and to be a support system to other minorities.

Sherrie's future goals are to have her own nail salon. She's been working on nails since middle school and would love to pursue it as a career. She also provides custom bead work and was part of a training recently for those interested in this tradition. She decided to be a business major so she could learn about operations and strategies for owning/running your own business. Her role model, Provost Neeli Bendapudi has talked to her about someday opening a franchise. Neeli has taught her to always think big and have confidence in what she does.

Some of the tips she would give incoming students are to be curious and get involved. She thinks it's extremely important to not be afraid to ask for help. Someone might feel ashamed or embarrassed to ask for tutoring, but it is important to ask others for help and ask questions. Also, she recommends that one should get involved because it makes a huge difference. Employers are looking to hire people who are willing to try new things and have been involved. When getting involved you meet people, and as she learned in MBSP, connections matter.

She most enjoyed the networking opportunities that MBSP gives their scholars. These opportunities have allowed her to learn from companies, have an elevator pitch, improve her communication skill, and work around her shyness. Sherrie will be in the program for another year and we know she has amazing things waiting for her in the business world.